

Arrow in the Arctic

What is Arrow in the Arctic?

Pi Beta Phi is the first Panhellenic organization to initiate an international philanthropy. In 1967, to celebrate the centennials of both Canada and Pi Beta Phi, Arrow in the Arctic was established to send donations to supplement libraries in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. When Nunavut officially separated from the Northwest Territories in 1999, Arrow in the Arctic began supplementing libraries in that new federal territory as well.

Why is Arrow in the Arctic important?

Many children living in the Arctic are home schooled because of extreme weather. For these students and others, libraries become a community social center as well as a place to discover information. While the Canadian government provides funds for basic libraries, contributions from Pi Beta Phi make a huge difference in an area five times the state of Texas. The Canadian Arctic includes five time zones, 18 official languages and the magnetic North Pole.

Extensive shipping is impossible and expensive, so money, rather than books, is sent to the Yukon, Northwest and Nunavut Territory central library systems. Since Arrow in the Arctic was founded, more than \$100,000 has been used to order books or supplies for libraries. In an area where the literacy rates are low and drug abuse and suicides are a problem, Arrow in the Arctic offers a unique way to support literacy efforts in the Canadian Arctic where it is much needed!

How are Arrow in the Arctic funds being used?

Each year, the Canadian Philanthropies Committee receives wish lists from the territories and recommends the distribution of funds for books and other literacy tools. Funds have been used for hiring a summer student to run a children's literacy program; compiling and distributing family and children's literacy kits full of books and craft ideas associated with the stories; and the purchasing of new books to supplement library native women book sections. Pi Phis should be proud to help improve literacy in the far north.

Fundraising and Donations

Individuals, chapter and alumnae organizations should send donations directly to Pi Beta Phi Foundation, designated for Arrow in the Arctic. Individual donations are tax-deductible. Individuals may also designate planned or deferred gifts to Arrow in the Arctic.

Please mail donations to Pi Beta Phi Foundation, PO Box 801867, Kansas City, MO, 64180-1867 and make sure to put 'Arrow in the Arctic' in the memo line of the check.

For more information on Arrow in the Arctic, please contact Candace Turner Dressler, Chairman of the Canadian Philanthropies Committee, at CanPChair@pibetaphi.org.

